

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LX NUMBER 5

MAY 2007



## EBARC Meeting

May 11, 2007  
7:30 p.m.

"History of KPH and Being  
a Commercial Operator"  
Denice Stoops, KI6BBR



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets the second Friday of each month  
at the Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante.

The Executive Board meets the Monday before each general meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
at 6527 Arlington Blvd., Richmond. For directions call 415-305-2547.

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THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
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*The Blown Fuse* is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for June issue: Tuesday, May. 22nd

*[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]*

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## **President's Sidetone**

### **Jack Burris, K6JEB**

My Grandfather, probably one of the best walleye fishermen in Minnesota, once told me, "Prohibition was bad, but no alcohol would have been worse."

How does that have anything to do with ham radio? Well, can you believe we're at the very bottom of the sunspot cycle? Conditions are supposed to be 'dead' on the bands, but even with a modest station I've found openings to many parts of the world, usually on just a wire or mobile antenna and five to a hundred watts output.

Case in point:

A couple weekends ago, Kyle, KI6FYW, and I were camping with our dogs at gorgeous Wrights Beach, near Jenner. I took my rig along and had a mag-mounted mobile whip antenna on the roof of the camper. While tuning across the CW segment of the Forty Meter band, I came across a rather strong signal calling CQ. When he signed, it was our own Dr. Alan, signing KH8/K6SRZ somewhere out in the Pacific on his way to Swain's Island.

It took a couple calls but I worked him, just before the pile-up began!

Oh sure, we have a bit of an advantage when working Pacific stations here on the West Coast, but snagging a new DXCC country is still a blast. I often compare it to fishing, only there's no mess to clean up afterwards, and there's no daily limit on how much DX you can work, when conditions are good.

Again, this last weekend, while camping at nearby Samuel P. Taylor State Park near Fairfax, I managed to work another new one: JW/F8DVD. He was located on Spitsbergen Island in the Svalbard Archipelago, between Greenland and Iceland north of the Arctic Circle. Same rig, only this time the antenna was the mobile whip clamped to a BBQ grill.

My point is: propagation may be bad, but no DX would be worse.

You really don't need all that much time or equipment to have fun in this awesome hobby of ours. I challenge you to find ways to share the thrill of getting on the air with others, both hams and non-hams alike. And be sure to let them know about the many opportunities to become a ham, or to upgrade their license, or to get back on the air.

For the May EBARC meeting, we're fortunate to have Denice Stoops, KI6BBR, who will share her experiences in maritime/commercial radio and KPH. Come join the party!!!

73 de K6JEB  
Jack

PS - Six Meters is starting to open up. Sporadic-E season is on the way!

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Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

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## May Program

### Ron Smith, KE6RS

The May 11<sup>th</sup> EBARC program will be presented by Denice Stoops, KI6BBR. It will be a discussion of the history of KPH and Denice's commercial operator adventures.

Denice suggests that members of EBARC may want to have a look at the Maritime Radio Historical Society's web page at <http://www.radiomarine.org/> and bring any questions they may have to the meeting for Denice to answer.

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## Treasurer's Report

### April, 2007

**Gordon Parsons, NU6W, Treasurer**

#### APRIL INCOME

Advertising fee (HRO).....	\$180.00
Coffee Kitty .....	<u>13.25</u>
Total Apr. Income .....	\$193.25

#### APRIL DISBURSEMENTS

Blown Fuse Printing .....	\$17.54
Blown Fuse Postage .....	15.21
AT&T (W6CUS phone) .....	<u>18.52</u>
Total Apr. Disbursements .....	\$51.27

#### BANK OF THE WEST ACCOUNTS

Checking (General Fund).....	\$4,949.20
Savings (Station Fund*) .....	\$2,986.22

\*\$560 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

While EBARC Inc. does not pay any taxes, the club has to file a financial report with the IRS nevertheless. An extension has been filed with the IRS through the club's tax preparer, Al Streit, KD6HF. The annual report is due in September. Al was a long-time member of EBARC and a former *Blown Fuse* editor.

## Public Service Events

### Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Sunday, May 6, 2007: Grizzly Peak Century, Contact Rich Parker, KD6JCT, [kd6jct@yahoo.com](mailto:kd6jct@yahoo.com) or 510-237-2777

#### **Public Service event schedule for 2007 for the Marin Amateur Radio Society:**

Saturday, May 5, 2007: Miwok 100K run (0700-1000 hrs) Flexible shifts available

Saturday, May 5 and into early Sunday, May 6: The Relay (1500-0530 hrs) These first two are on the same dates and both need numerous volunteers!!!!

Saturday, May 12, 2007: The Human Race (0730-1200 hrs)

Sunday, June 10, 2007: Dipsea - (0700-1700 hrs)

Saturday, June 16, 2007: Terrible Two (0800-2230 hrs) A Sonoma County event that we have been asked to help out on if possible.

Saturday, June 23, 2007: Double Dipsea (0700-1600 hrs) (Field Day)

Saturday, Aug 4, 2007: Mt. Tam Double Century (0700-2200 hrs)

Saturday, Aug 18, 2007: Holstein 100 bike run (0800-1730 hrs)

Sunday, Sept 30, 2007 - Escape From Alcatraz (run portion) (1000-1730 hrs)

Volunteers do not have to commit to the entire time frame. If we get enough volunteers, we can break up the longer shifts. To volunteer, contact Randy; KA6BQF, [ka6bqf@arri.net](mailto:ka6bqf@arri.net), 510 526-4089. Thanks.

# General Meeting Minutes

**April 13, 2007**

**Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, Acting Sec't'y**

The meeting was called to order by President, Jack, K6JEB, at 7:36 p.m. The minutes of the March General Meeting were accepted as printed in *The Blown Fuse*.

Trustee: Ralph, W6EFD, had no report.

Club Station Chair: Stanton, KD6SWU, said the station and ramp are okay.

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Ron, KE6RS, said Denise Stoops will speak at the May meeting. The June meeting is for Field Day planning.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Randy, KA6BQF, reminded us of the Grizzly Peak Bike Ride on May 6th. He also reminded us of the 8-week Technican class that starts April 18<sup>th</sup> at Alvarado School.

3<sup>rd</sup> VP, VE Liaison, Blown Fuse Editor: Sharon, AA6XZ, introduced visitor Stephen Bjork. She billed our advertiser, HRO. She announced the April 22<sup>nd</sup> VE test session. As acting secretary, she reported that there was no significant "snail mail".

Field Day Chair and Web Site Guru: Peter, W6DEI, has reserved our spot at the Berkeley marina for Field Day. He also reports that the EBARC web site is getting lots of visitors. He puts up links to all presenters' web sites. Peter reports working Alan Eshleman as he was enroute to the N8S Swain's Island DXpedition. For the Red Oak Victory, he invited operators aboard ship to work the "Museum Ships Special Event", Jun 9-10, 0100-2359Z (Jack will do CW & SSB, and Peter will do PSK).

Member-at-Large: Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, has made a 40M phased array antenna for Field Day. It will be checked out by himself, Bob Uhrhammer, Jack Burris, and anyone else who cares to help.

Treasurer: Gordy, NU6W, summarized the March Treasurer's report as it was printed in the *Blown Fuse*. Al Streit has filed an IRS tax extension. We don't pay tax, but we file in December.

President: Jack, K6JEB: Jack also worked K6SRZ during his setup for the Swain's Island DXpedition. Peter Hoffman has agreed to be our publicity chair. See Stanton if you want to be on the club station maintenance team. The 10M net at 1930 local time on Monday nights meets on 28.425 MHz [*info has been corrected in net list – Editor*]

Good of the Order: Texx, KG6ATH, reports that Rev. Alexander's church group's CERT program is going slowly. Texx is trying to recruit new hams from this group.

No new business. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. for the door prize drawing and speakers.

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## FCC Regulatory Affairs (TNX to Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF)

The FCC has invited opposition comments to two petitions for reconsideration filed in the wake of the commission's Report and Order in WT Docket 05 -- 235. One petition calls on the FCC to reinstate the five words per minute Morse code requirement for amateur extra class applicants. The second petition cites problems with the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System, and seeks to reopen the proceeding for additional comments. Opposition comments are due April 27. Comments in support of either petition are not welcomed by the FCC.

The FCC has proposed reducing the need to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The proposal would reduce the current \$20.80 fee to \$11.70. These fees are mandated by Congress and are collected to recover the regulatory costs associated with the

commission's enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities. The vanity callsign fee is payable upon initial application, and at the 10 year renewal period, of each amateur licensee holding a vanity callsign. Vanity callsigns issued prior to 1996 are exempt from the additional fee, because such heritage vanity callsigns do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

The ARRL is working with the US Department of Defense to develop a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to military radar systems on the East and West coasts. The U.S. Air Force has asked the FCC to order dozens of repeater systems to either mitigate interference to the Pave Paws radars or shut down. The Amateur Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band, with government radio location having a primary allocation. As a secondary service, amateur radio must not interfere with, and must accept, interference from, the primary user.

The situation affects 15 repeaters within 100 miles of Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more than 100 repeaters within 140 miles of Beale Air Force Base in Marysville, California. This includes the majority of 70 cm repeaters in the San Francisco Bay area. The Cape Cod and Marysville sites are the two remaining Pave Paws facilities in the continental United States. Pave Paws is a missile and satellite detection and tracking system. These radar systems occupy essentially the entire 70 cm band, and have an average output power of more than 145 kW.

The ARRL lab is working up calculations for each repeater system the Air Force has identified to determine where mitigation techniques offer a reasonable chance of keeping the repeater on the air. The ARRL is recommending that affected repeater owners reduce power, to as little as 5W effective radiated power (ERP), in order to mitigate interference. Repeater owners and users are being urged to exercise patience in dealing with this issue. Amateur operators must

already abide by a 50 W PEP maximum power limitation in the areas around both Air Force facilities.

For further information see the ARRL web site [www.ARRL.org](http://www.ARRL.org)

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## EBARC Roster Update

- **NEW ADDRESS:** Rita Brenden, KG6WPN, now lives at 616A Ventura St., Richmond, CA 94805.

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## Red Cross, ARRL Discuss Background Investigations

*[excerpt from ARRL Letter 04/21/2007]*

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members volunteering to support Red Cross disaster relief or recovery operations would not have to submit to a Red Cross background check unless their volunteer stints extended beyond seven days. That was the word from American Red Cross officials, who met recently with ARRL representatives. The ARRL has expressed concerns about the Red Cross' background check policy since first learning of it last year. The League posted its most recent position statement ([www.arrl.org/announce/ARRL-ARC-bg-check.html](http://www.arrl.org/announce/ARRL-ARC-bg-check.html)) on the topic in March.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, met March 20 at American Red Cross offices in Washington, DC, with two attorneys from the Red Cross General Counsel's office and two management-level staff members from Red Cross Disaster Services. ARRL asked the Red Cross staff if ARRL ARES volunteers would be subject to the American Red Cross background check requirement if they provided communication for more than seven days. The position of the Red Cross is that ARES volunteers would not be permitted to provide communications at an American Red Cross disaster site for more than

seven days without submitting to the Red Cross background check procedure.

Discussion then turned to the Red Cross' announcement that it would not conduct credit or mode-of-living checks. The League's stated concern has been that the ARC background investigation consent form states that a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report -- which includes certain credit checks and mode of living checks -- will be obtained on the volunteer signing the form.

The ARRL team asked if the Red Cross would be willing to modify its consent form to limit the authority granted by the person signing the form to criminal background checks only. The Red Cross representatives did not appear willing to modify the current consent form.

The ARRL also suggested alternatives to the Red Cross investigation firm, MyBackgroundCheck.com (MBC).

The Red Cross also appears unwilling to accept background checks conducted by other entities, such as law enforcement organizations. The Red Cross based its reluctance on a requirement to compare the methodologies of MBC with those of alternative background-check providers.

Following the meeting, the ARRL reiterated its recommendation that members carefully review any consent document permitting a private organization to conduct a background investigation on that individual. The current Red Cross background check consent form continues to include permission, without further consent from the volunteer, to conduct a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report.

The Federal Trade Commission and federal statutes define "investigative consumer reports" to include a mode-of-living check as well as certain credit checks.

While the Red Cross has said it won't routinely pull credit reports on background check applicants, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has said that just requiring volunteers to authorize procurement of a credit report "is inconsistent with this assurance."

In the course of the background check application process, prospective volunteers must agree to let MBC obtain a wide range of personal information bearing not just on criminal background and creditworthiness but, MBC says, "character, general reputation [and] personal characteristics." MBC advises, "The nature and scope of this disclosure and authorization is all-encompassing."

The ARRL says it won't suggest which organizations or agencies Amateur Radio volunteers should or should not support, but the League stresses that it does wish to facilitate the provision of volunteer services.

The ARC and the ARRL have a Statement of Understanding (SoU), which is up for review this year.

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## Future Bay Area Events

- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday of each month at Robertson Park, 7 a.m. to noon, all year. Talk-in 147.045 MHz. Info: Robert 925-560-5646 (h). More info at [www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html](http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html)
- South Bay Electronics Flea Market, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, March through October, De Anza College, Cupertino. Details at [www.asvaro.org](http://www.asvaro.org). Talk-in on 145.27 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL).
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. The remaining sessions for 2007 will be Sundays Jul. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Exams are held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Kaiser Building, 1950 Franklin, Oakland (1 block from the 19<sup>th</sup> St. BART station). The 2007 fee (and retest fee) remains at \$14. For info call 510-846-1587 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details, RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

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## Keep your batteries charged!

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$25 for individual membership, \$30 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, call (510) 233-7509, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page [www.eastbayarc.org](http://www.eastbayarc.org), or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The East Bay Amateur Radio Club maintains a club station, W6CUS, at 3200 Macdonald Ave., Richmond. The packet station, W6CUS-1, is on 145.630 Mhz, and is linked to the EAST BAY LAN (EBAY) on 223.720 Mhz.

## 2007 EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jack Burris, K6JEB, President .....	415-305-2547
Ron Smith, KE6RS, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP - Program Chair.....	724-5099
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP – Hospitality Chair .....	526-4089
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Gordon Parsons, NU6W, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair.....	785-4290
Gayle “Burgie” Jones, KE6MSF, Secretary .....	964-1476
Ralph Hall, W6EFD, W6CUS Trustee / SysOp .....	232-0727
Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, Club Station Manager, Member-at-Large ..	385-4044
John Wood, N6JDW, Education Chair, Member-at-Large.....	741-7050
Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, Field Day Chair, Member-at-Large, Web Site Guru, and Publicity Chair.....	525-0694
Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, Member-at-Large .....	233-5749
Social & Digital Committees Chair.....	
Awards Chair & Silent Key Chair.....	
Legislative Affairs .....	
RFI Committee Chair.....	
Historian .....	

## AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
EBARC “Explore Net” (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"Going Home Group"	Mo-Fr	1600 (PL 82.5-)	145.110

Asst. EC West CoCoCo: Steve Adams, KF6WNH, [sadams0584@aol.com](mailto:sadams0584@aol.com); home: 510-236-9770  
work: 510-893-7900 x 270; pager 510-765-4618. Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s.